

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02234 120830Z

ACTION PER-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W

-----122300Z 047390 /66 C

R 111229Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3984

UNCLAS BEIRUT 2234

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, APER, CGEN, LE

SUBJECT: BEIRUT CONSULAR STAFFING

REF: (A) STATE 101072, (B) STATE 1979

1. REGRET THAT REF B DID NOT MAKE CLEAR THAT WE HAVE GREAT NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL CONSULAR OFFICER FROM EARLY JUNE INTO SEPTEMBER. REF B WAS INTENDED TO PROVIDE LEAD-TIME TO ENABLE DEPARTMENT LOCATE REQUIRED OFFICER.

2. PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THIS NEED IS GROWING WORKLOAD IN CONSULAR SECTION WHICH HAS EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, NON-IMMIGRANT VISA WORKLOAD FOR MARCH AND APRIL THIS YEAR ARE CONSIDERABLY ABOVE LAST PRE-WAR FIGURES FOR SAME MONTHS. CONSISTENT PATTERN OF NIV WORKLOAD IS THAT MONTHLY FIGURES FOR MARCH, APRIL AND MAY ARE ROUGHLY EQUAL WHILE FIGURES FOR JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST ARE ALMOST 50 PERCENT HIGHER. PROJECTION OF FIRST WEEK NIV WORKLOAD IN MAY IS 956, ABOUT TWELVE PERCENT HIGHER THAN LAST PRE-WAR MAY IN 1974. ANTICIPATE THAT NIV WORKLOAD WILL CONTINUE AT RATE WELL ABOVE PRE-WAR LEVEL. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT NORMAL PATTERN OF SUMMER RUSH OF APPLICANTS WILL RECUR THIS YEAR. IMMIGRANT VISA ISSUANCE RECOMMENCED APRIL 1; CONSEQUENTLY, FIGURE OF 175 FOR APRIL IS ONLY HALF OF EXPECTED STANDARD.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02234 120830Z

LEVEL OF FIRST WEEK OF MAY PROJECTED OVER ENTIRE MONTH IS 276, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE NEW NORM. PASSPORT ISSUANCE HAS CLIMBED IN APRIL TO MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF NORMAL IN PRE-WAR MONTHS AND FIRST WEEK OF MAY PROJECTED FOR ENTIRE MONTH INDICATES WILL CONTINUE AT LEVEL SLIGHTLY ABOVE THIS PERCENTAGE. THERE IS NO ADEQUATE WAY TO QUANTIFY SERVICES TO AMERICAN CITIZENS, BUT EACH

CASE PRESENTS SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES DUE TO CONTINUING PROBLEM WITH TRAVEL, MAIL AND TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION. AMERICANS NOW TRAVELING IN THIS COUNTRY ARE NOT NORMAL TOURISTS. THEY REQUIRE (AND RECEIVE) MORE ATTENTION. NEITHER COURTS NOR POLICE SYSTEM ARE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY AND CONSULAR SECTION MUST ASSIST PERSONS WHO ORDINARILY COULD BE LEFT TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES. FEDERAL BENEFICIARIES ALSO REQUIRE MORE ASSISTANCE SINCE THEY OR PERSONS WITH POWER OF ATTORNEY MUST CALL AT EMBASSY TO COLLECT CHECKS. TREASURY HAS INSISTED THAT BECAUSE OF WAR SITUATION EACH RECIPIENT MUST CALL AT EMBASSY AT LEAST ONCE TO ESTABLISH THAT HE IS STILL ALIVE. SINCE MANY OF THESE PERSONS ARE AGED (ONE IS ONE HUNDRED SEVEN YEARS OLD), THEY ARE INFIRM AND REQUIRE SPECIAL ATTENTION WHEN THEY CALL. OTHERS SIMPLY CANNOT MAKE THE JOURNEY AND REQUIRE PERSONAL VISIT FROM CONSULAR SECTION. SUCH PLANNED VISITS ARE CURTAILED OR POSTPONED BY CHANGING SECURITY SITUATION IN COUNTRY. IN SUM, WORKLOAD OF OUR CONSULAR SECTION IS APPROACHING LEVEL OF THREE YEARS AGO, WHEN BEIRUT HAD SEVEN CONSULAR OFFICERS.

3. PROBLEM OF COPING WITH THIS GROWING WORKLOAD IS COMPLICATED BY FACT OF FAMILY SEPARATION OF AMERICAN STAFF. ORDINARILY, AMERICAN CONSULAR STAFF ARE SIMPLY NOT GRANTED ANNUAL LEAVE DURING SUMMER MONTHS. BUT OUR PROBLEM IS COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT TWO OF OUR CONSULAR OFFICERS ARE MAINTAINING MINOR DEPENDENTS SEPARATELY IN US, AS REQUIRED BY DEPARTMENT BECAUSE OF CIRCUMSTANCES IN BEIRUT. SUMMER MONTHS (WHEN SCHOOLS ARE OUT) ARE ONLY TIME THEY CAN SEE THEIR CHILDREN AND THEY HAD BEEN COUNTING ON FAMILY

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 02234 120830Z

VISITATION TRAVEL THIS SUMMER. I THINK THEY SHOULD HAVE IT. PARTICULARLY SINCE THEY VOLUNTEERED FOR BEIRUT ASSIGNMENT WITH THIS UNDERSTANDING. I THEREFORE ASK THAT DEPARTMENT MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO LOCATE A TDY CONSULAR OFFICER WHO COULD COME HERE TO ASSIST FOR MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST. PERHAPS SCA OR VO HAS CONSULAR OFFICER WHO WOULD WELCOME UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE OUR EXPERIENCE FIRST-HAND DURING BUSY SUMMER MONTHS. IN ANY CASE, I TRUST DEPT WILL WORK OUT SOME WAY OF SENDING US SOME TDY HELP THIS SUMMER. PLEASE ADVISE.

PARKER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT02234
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770168-0345
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770572/aaaacjwr.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e8f24497-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PER
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 101072, 77 STATE 1979
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2575905
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BEIRUT CONSULAR STAFFING
TAGS: AFSP, APER, CGEN, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e8f24497-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009